

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00716 301359Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSC-01 EB-08 /062 W
-----012919 301403Z /72

O R 301204Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8440
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0716

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IC
SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: NATIONWIDE RESULTS

REF: A. REYKJAVIK 0706 (DTG 261133Z MAY 78) B. REYKJAVIK 0618
(DTG 091351Z MAY 78)

1. RESULTS FROM MAY 28 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN ICELAND
PRODUCED SHARP LOSSES FOR GOVERNMENT PARTIES THROUGHOUT
COUNTRY. INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP), ICELAND'S LARGEST, LOST
MORE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS INCLUDING ITS MAJORITY ON REYKJAVIK
CITY COUNCIL FOR FIRST TIME IN HALF CENTURY. A "LEFT GOVERN-
MENT" WILL NOW BE FORMED IN NATION'S CAPITAL FOR FIRST TIME
(SEPTEL). THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL DEFEAT IS
LIKELY TO ALTER NATURE OF CAMPAIGN FOR ALTHING ELECTION TO
BE HELD JUNE 25.

2. IN RELATIVE TERMS, IP COALITION PARTNER AND TRADITIONAL
RIVAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP) MAY HAVE SUFFERED MORE.

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IN REYKJAVIK, IT WAS REDUCED TO SINGLE SEAT ON
COUNCIL IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN LEADER OF OPPOSITION
ONLY EIGHT YEARS AGO, AND THIS BODES ILL FOR ITS HOPES
IN NATIONAL ELECTION IN REYKJAVIK NEXT MONTH. MORE-OVER,
ITS SHARE OF TOTAL VOTE WAS CUT TO MERE FIFTEEN
PERCENT THEREBY REDUCING IT TO FOURTH LARGEST PARTY
(AS RESULT OF MUNICIPAL RETURNS) FOR FIRST TIME SINCE

EARLY IN THEIR CENTURY.

3. IN 22 TOWNS AND 34 RURAL AREAS THAT VOTED, PP SUFFERED LOSSES IN ALL BUT THREE. IP LOSSES WERE EXTENSIVE WITH SETBACKS IN 13 OF 22 TOWNS, LOSING ITS MAJORITY IN THREE OF THEM (INCLUDING REYKJAVIK) AND ITS PLURALITY IN ONE. IT GAINED IN ONLY ONE TOWN. IP LOST IN 11 OF 34 RURAL COUNCILS, LOSING ITS MAJORITY IN FOUR; IT GAINED IN ONLY ONE.

4. BOTH GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION PARTIES, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SDP) AND PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (PA) WERE BIG WINNERS. WITH RARE EXCEPTION, BOTH PARTIES' VOTES WERE UP SHARPLY IN ALL VOTING AREAS. SDP REBOUNDED REMARKABLY AFTER 12 YEARS OF STEADY LOSSES AND MORE THAN DOUBLED ITS VOTE TOTAL IN MUNICIPAL RETURNS COMPARED WITH 1974 RESULTS. PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MUST BE COUNTED AS MAJOR VICTOR, HOWEVER. BY CAPTURING ONE QUARTER OF TOTAL VOTE THROUGHOUT ICELAND, IT APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED INTO POSITION AS NATION'S SECOND LARGEST PARTY. THOUGH NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CONTROL TOWNS AND RURAL COUNCILS ON ITS OWN, PA HAS BEEN ABLE TO DOMINATE LEFT-OF-CENTER COALITIONS GOVERNING SEVERAL OF THESE; ITS GAINS WILL PUT IT IN POSITION TO DO THIS IN ADDITIONAL AREAS INCLUDING REYKJAVIK WHERE IT WILL HAVE FIVE OF EIGHT SEATS IN NEW GOVERNING COALITION.
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5. BREAKDOWN OF NATIONWIDE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

	1974	1978	CHANGE
	(PERCENT)	(PERCENT)	
SDP	9.5	16.5	PLUS 7.0
PP	18.8	15.2	MINUS 3.6
IP	49.0	39.9	MINUS 9.1
PA	17.1	24.5	PLUS 7.4
OTHER	5.6	3.9	MINUS 1.7

6. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
BLAKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978057/aaaaaafx.tel
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Litigation History:
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